

## Pray That We'd Be Mature Colossians 1:9-14

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What were you thinking at the beginning of 2012 in regards to the spiritual things of your life that needed worked on? What changes did you make? Did you have a momentous list of 'do's' that you wanted to accomplished so that at the end of 2012, you would feel like you moved ahead spiritually? We can boil all of our 'doings' in 2012 down to one question: Did you become more God-dependent in 2012 or self-dependent? In all your goal-setting, in all your list-making, all your accomplishing, do you believe you became more dependent on your Heavenly Father? Did you grow in abiding ability or did you grow in dependence upon your self. Prayer Week is designed to kick start a heart that believes we can do nothing by ourselves in 2013. A needy child is an asking child. A desperate Christian is a praying Christian. A self-dependent and self-sufficient believer is one who talks of prayer, but does not pray, one who makes goals, but accomplishes them in the flesh, and one who aspires to progress, but who largely does it without the help of God or realizing his need of Him. Begin 2013 on your knees.....there is no greater place to start.

1. What is the cry of your heart in relation to God and your intimacy with Him? Are you satisfied with where you are? Do you want to know God deeper? What circumstances in your life has God used in 2012 to show you that your greatest need is intimacy with Him?
2. What would the community of College Park Church look like if everyone here had at the top notch goal of his/her life, not to grow financially, not to just serve more, not to just read more, but to know God more? What if 4,000 people sought to just know God better in 2013? What would holiness look like? What would evangelism look like? What would giving look like? What would our local outreach and global outreach effectiveness look like? How much recruiting for children's ministries and other ministry positions do you think we'd have to do?
3. How do you want to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord in 2013? How much do you need God to help see that through? What is your top strategy point in seeing that happen? Is it dependent upon your ability or God's ability? How will you know in 2014 that you walked in a manner worthy of the Lord?
4. Does it overwhelm you that the standard is to bear fruit in every good work and be fully pleasing to the Lord? Where does that standard drive you? Are you prone to make better lists, more intricate schedules, or does that goal drive you to another place? How would a God-reliant person respond to such a monumental goal?
5. As you seek to know God deeper and seek to become evermore dependent upon your All-Sufficient Savior, how do you plan to respond:
  - when people sin against you?
  - when you do not get what you want
  - when the world's standard clearly does not match God's
  - when the government and economy continue to tank
  - when injustice, sin and wrongdoing become more the norm
  - when you get sick
  - when others close to you die
  - when there is not enough money to pay bills

How will you actively seek God better and deeper in these and other circumstances?

6. What can you do now, in regards to setting a stage for reliance upon God, to prepare you for the hard times in 2013 that will come from the hand of God for your sanctification?
  
7. Why is all this based upon the Gospel? How is the gospel the focal point and Ground Zero when we talk of maturity, pleasing God, bearing fruit, etc.? Can't someone who has not responded to the gospel please God and bear fruit and become mature?
  
8. As believers, we operate not as the world operates. Our worldview is different. It is much higher. What is the world's typical response to holiness, maturity in Christ, pleasing God, etc.? Does your life and will your life in 2013 stand in direct opposition to the standard the world puts on you? What will prayer week and your prayer life look like in 2013 that will initiate that life of set-apartness?